



CALENDAR

The Region XII Council of Governments Newsletter

May 2023

June

- 7 - RPA XII TAC
10:00 AM, COG Board Room
RDC Loan Review Comm.
11:30 AM, COG Training Room
- 8 - **Executive Board Meeting**
12:30 PM, COG Training Room
COG Housing
1:30 PM, COG Training Room
- 18 - **City Managers Meeting**
11:00 AM, COG Training Room
- 21 - **MIDF**
3:00 PM, Virtual

July

- 4 - **Independence Day;**
Office Closed
- 12 - RPA XII TAC
10:00 AM, COG Board Room
RDC Loan Review Comm.
11:30 AM, COG Training Room
- 13 - **Executive Board Meeting**
5:00 PM, COG Training Room
Policy Council
6:00 PM, COG Training Room
- 17 - **Region XII 50th Birthday;**
Founded 1973

August

- 9 - **RDC Loan Review Comm.**
11:30 AM, COG Training Room
- 10 - **Executive Board Meeting**
12:30 PM, COG Training Room
- 18 - **City Managers Meeting**
11:00 AM, COG Training Room

COG Seeks Houses to Acquire and Rehabilitate

The COG has been awarded funds through two different programs to enable it to acquire and completely rehab houses in the region. Once complete, the houses will be sold to income-eligible homeowners. Houses to be acquired must be vacant (e.g. on the market, in an estate, foreclosed, acquired through nuisance or delinquent taxes, etc.). Ideally, the COG is seeking properties which can be donated, either through private party or by a local government. While purchasing is an option, any purchase price paid decreases the amount available to rehabilitate the home. Homes must be feasible to repair. The COG expects updates will be needed for the roof, windows, electrical, plumbing, HVAC, and interior surfaces. These upgraded and remodeled homes will sell at market price and will include some down-payment assistance to buyers. All proceeds realized from sales of units will be invested into additional units. Ultimately, the COG hopes to fix up 20-30 homes in the next several years. "Market forces prohibit much new construction for entry-level homeowners in our region. A key strategy of the COG for decades has been the preservation of our existing housing stock," said Karla Janning, Housing Programs Coordinator. "It is nearly impossible to replace homes we lose to deterioration and deferred maintenance. We hope to help communities across the region save single-family housing units one by one."

Interested communities who may have housing units in our target should contact Karla Janning at 712-775-7825 or kjanning@region12cog.org



Before

After

EXECUTIVE BOARD

- John Muir, Chair
Greene Co. Supervisor
- Ranell Drake, Vice Chair
Sac Co. Supervisor
- Stephanie Hausman, Treasurer
Carroll Co. Supervisor
- Rick Thompson, Secretary
Audubon Co. Supervisor
- Dave Muhlbauer
Crawford Co. Supervisor
- Steve Smith
Guthrie Co. Supervisor



REGION XII
COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS
EST. 1973

SAVE THE DATE

- July 17, 2023 Region XII's 50th Anniversary
- July 21 @ 8:00 AM, Chamber Coffee (Region XII, Carroll)
- September 7 @ 5:00 PM Region XII Anniversary Dinner (Templeton Center)
- Formal Invitation to follow*



**Solid Waste
Alternative
Program Deadline**

The deadline for the Iowa Department of Natural Resources’ (DNR) Solid Waste Alternatives Program (SWAP) is July 1, 2023. The goal of SWAP is to reduce the amount of waste generated and landfilled in Iowa. Through this competitive process, financial assistance is available for a variety of waste reduction and recycling projects.

SWAP provides financial assistance in the form of forgivable loans, zero interest loans, and three-percent interest loans. A 25% minimum cash match is required for each budget line item requesting funding assistance. Any unit of local government, business, non-profit or individual is eligible to apply for program funds.

For assistance contact Paige Alesch, (712) 775-7813 Phone, palesch@region12cog.org or Shelly Codner, (319) 404-1942, scodner@region12cog.org.

For additional information including guidelines and application materials visit: DNR’s website at www.iowadnr.gov/idnr/swap. Successful projects can be viewed on the DNR’s website by clicking [Here](#).

**Coon Rapids Nearing
end of Downtown Facade
Revitalization Project**

In 2022, the City of Coon Rapids was awarded \$689,081 in COVID CDBG funds to complete facade renovations on 8 downtown buildings. Construction on the project started in October 2022 and continued throughout the winter. The project is anticipated to be completed this summer. COG staff assisted with the writing of the CDBG grant application and grant administration.



Before



After

Region XII Partnership Program

The COG’s Partnership Program is an opportunity for private, non-government businesses and organizations to become a part of the COG’s mission to provide various needed services to the region’s cities and counties. Partners listed below. For more information, contact Rick Hunsaker at rhunsaker@region12cog.org. This list is up to date as of December 31, 2022.

PLATINUM MEMBERSHIP - \$2,000
Monogram Quality Foods, Denison

GOLD MEMBERSHIP - \$1,000

- Availa Bank, Carroll
- Dakota Business Finance, Sioux Falls

SILVER MEMBERSHIP - \$500

- Bank Iowa, Denison
- Bauer Built, Paton
- Greene County Medical Center, Jefferson
- Guthrie County REC, Guthrie Center
- Holmes Murphy & Associates, Waukee
- Home State Bank, Jefferson
- Iowa Corn Processors, Glidden
- Landmands Bank, Audubon
- Mid-Iowa Insurance & Real Estate, Carroll
- Raccoon Valley Electric Cooperative, Glidden
- West Central Iowa Rural Water Association, Manning
- Western Iowa Power Cooperative, Denison

BRONZE MEMBERSHIP - \$250

- Agri Drain Corporation, Adair
- Audubon County Economic Development, Audubon
- Audubon County Mem. Hospital & Clinics, Audubon
- Audubon State Bank, Audubon
- Badding Construction, Carroll
- Breda Savings Bank, Breda
- Breda Telephone Corp. DBA Western Iowa Networks, Breda
- Bruner Bruner Reinhart & Morton, Carroll
- Carroll County Growth Partnership, Carroll
- Chamber & Development Council of Crawford County, Denison
- Commercial Savings Bank, Carroll
- Community State Bank, Paton
- Coon Rapids Municipal Utilities, Coon Rapids
- Core-Mark DBA Farner-Bocken, Carroll
- Corn Belt Telephone, Wall Lake
- Crawford County Memorial Hospital, Denison
- Denison Municipal Utilities, Denison
- Drees Company, Carroll
- Exchange State Bank, Exira
- Farmers State Bank, Lake View
- Farmers State Bank, Yale
- Ed M Feld Equipment Company, Carroll
- Game One, Carroll
- Greene County Development Corporation, Jefferson
- Guthrie County State Bank, Guthrie Center
- Iowa Savings Bank, Carroll
- Iowa Trust & Savings Bank, Panora
- JEO Consulting Group, Inc., Carroll
- Marne & Elk Horn Telephone Company, Elk Horn
- Panora Telecommunications, Panora
- Principal Fin. Group-Matt Ramaekers, Carroll
- Sac Economic & Tourism Dev., Wall Lake
- Scranton Manufacturing/New Way, Scranton
- Snyder & Associates, Atlantic
- St. Anthony Regional Hospital, Carroll
- Sundquist Engineering, Denison
- Templeton Savings Bank, Templeton
- Templeton Telephone Company, Templeton
- Veenstra & Kimm, West Des Moines
- Wall Lake Lumber Company, Wall Lake
- Westside State Bank, Westside

Iowa DNR Financial Resource Workshop to Help Communities Redevelop Abandoned or Contaminated Sites - Cedar Rapids - June 6, Des Moines - June 7.

The Iowa Department of Natural Resources (DNR) invites you to a free, one-day workshop, designed to introduce your community to new and expanded financial and technical resources available to help redevelop properties where environmental contamination questions about past uses of the sites, or concerns about hazardous materials, such as asbestos or lead-based paint in building materials, have hindered your community's interest in acquiring and redeveloping sites with these types of challenges, which are known as "brownfields".

The workshop will assist attendees with understanding what technical and financial assistance is available for environmental analysis at brownfield sites, redevelopment concept planning, environmental assessment and cleanup assistance, building demolition, and even building remodeling assistance, to help turn sites that community obstacles back into opportunities and assets for your community! Financial assistance available is from \$25,000 - \$5,000,000 for site cleanup and redevelopment, subject to site and program eligibility.

This workshop is targeted to local government officials, key community stakeholders, economic and community development organizations, not-for-profit entities, community groups, private citizens, and others working to promote revitalization in Iowa communities.

Presented by the Iowa DNR, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency – Region 7 (U.S. EPA), and the Kansas State University Technical Assistance to Brownfields Program (KSU TAB), this workshop will help you:

- Understand what a brownfield is and how redevelopment can kick-start community revitalization.
- Meet your brownfield redevelopment partners at IDNR, U.S. EPA, and KSU TAB and hear about the free tools and resources they offer.
- Learn about state and federal grants, including new grants available from the November 2021 Congressional Bi-Partisan Infrastructure Law which provides a significant increase in financial resources for brownfield site assessment and cleanup.
- Learn about additional technical assistance, site analysis, and planning services that can help you meet your brownfield site and community redevelopment goals, and see examples from Iowa communities that have used these resources!

The IDNR is providing two dates and location options for you to attend the workshop. While the workshops are free, we ask that you register first, through KSU TAB. You can register for the workshop location of your preference at the links below. You will need to create a user profile with an email and password for registration.

Tuesday, June 6, 9am-4pm - Cedar Rapids: www.ksutab.org/events/workshops/details?id=562

Wednesday, June 7, 9am-4pm - Des Moines: www.ksutab.org/events/workshops/details?id=563

For a complete listing of these, and other KSU TAB resource workshops, go to: www.ksutab.org/events/workshops

For more information contact:

Mel Pins, IDNR, mel.pins@dnr.iowa.gov, 515.729.4616

Jennifer Clancey, KSU TAB, jmclancey@ksu.edu, 319.270.3394

Sheree Walsh, KSU TAB (for registration site questions) , chr@ksu.edu, 785.200.7005

May 2023 Grant Update

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Upcoming Grants

Funding Program	Purpose	Deadline	Eligible Applicants
Solid Waste Alternatives Program (SWAP)	Emphasis for selected projects is placed on tonnage avoided or reduced, sustainability and ability to replicate.	July 1 2023 October 1, 2023 January 1, 2024 April 1, 2024	Local governments, public or private groups
CDBG Water and Sewer Fund	Grants to assist cities and counties with sanitary sewer system improvements, water system improvements, water and wastewater treatment facilities, storm sewer projects related to sanitary sewer system improvements and rural water connections.	July 1 2023 October 1, 2023 January 1, 2023 April 1, 2023	Cities and Counties
Warren H. Timmerman Charitable Trust	Funding for projects in Carroll County	July 8, 2022	Local governments, non-profit organizations
Gilbert and Barbara Renze Charitable Foundation	Funding for projects in Carroll and Sac Counties	July 8, 2022	Local governments, non-profit organizations
Iowa West Foundation	Community development, economic development, education and human needs projects	July 15, 2023 November 15, 2023 March 15, 2024	Local governments and non-profit organizations in Audubon, Carroll and Crawford Counties.
Peter Kiewitt Foundation	Community development and recreation projects	July 15, 2023 October 15, 2023 January 15, 2024 April 15, 2024	Local governments and non-profit organizations within a 100 mile radius of Omaha Nebraska.
Resource Enhancement and Protection (Iowa DNR)	City parks and open space; county conservation, including land acquisition, facility repair and upgrades, and equipment; and private/public open space acquisition	August 15, 2022	Local governments and County Conservation Boards
RISE Local Development Grant Program	Funding to provide road/street access to expand business parks and development areas	September 1, 2023 February 1, 2024	Local Governments
Federal Rec Trails Program	Acquisition, construction or improvement of recreational trails and related facilities	October 1, 2023	Cities and Counties
Highway Safety Improvement Program (HSIP)	Provides grants for low-cost, systemic safety improvements in the \$10,000/mile range, focusing on lane departure crashes.	Ongoing	Counties
Alliant Hometown Challenge Grants	Dollar-for-dollar match to local fundraising for one-time safety related projects for local response teams	Rolling Cycle	Local governments, private non-profits
Black Hills Energy	Community development and recreation projects	Open	Local governments, private non-profits

Recently Awarded Grants

Funding Program	Recipient	Amount	Project
Community Foundation of Carroll County	City of Arcadia	\$8,000	Sport Court Rehabilitation
Community Foundation of Carroll County	Maple River Area Park	\$6,000	Awning, Heating, Air Conditioning for Shelter House
FEMA HMGP	City of Wall Lake	\$122,869	Back-Up Generator
Alliant Energy	City of Yale Fire Department	\$1,000	Purchase of an AED
Crawford County Community Foundation	Vail Veterans Memorial Park	\$5,000	Park Development
CDBG Upper Story Housing	City of Panora	\$550,000	113 East Main Upper Story Housing
CDBG Upper Story Housing	City of Jefferson	\$453,071	100 East State St. Upper Story Housing
CDBG Upper Story Housing	City of Perry	\$536,467	1306 2nd Street Upper Story Housing
Iowa DNR Derelict Building Grant	City of Odebolt	\$41,000	220 S. Main Street Asbestos abatement, new roof installation
Dallas County Foundation	Main Street Adel Chamber of Commerce	\$15,059	City of De Soto Highway 169 Gateway Trail
IEDA CAT Grant	City of Dallas Center	\$250,000	New community pool
Intermediary Relending Program	Region XII Council of Governments	\$1,000,000	Business Revolving Loan Fund for all 6 counties

Additional grants are available through private foundations and ongoing programs. If you are looking for funding for a specific project, please contact Chris Whitaker, cwhitaker@region12cog.org or 712-775-7811, for assistance in locating funding opportunities.

Introducing: Thriving Iowa Communities

It's no secret that housing is the start for upward economic opportunity and that families, communities and businesses will thrive when all Iowans have access to homes they can afford.

The state is estimated to need an additional 42,000 homes by 2030 to meet the demands of our robust economy. Meeting this need is going to require a strategic, proactive and innovative effort to ensure that all Iowans have the opportunity to live in the communities where they work. This is why the Iowa Finance Authority (IFA) and the Iowa Economic Development Authority (IEDA) are seeking to elevate best practices from communities that are going above and beyond to leverage innovative methods to attract housing development for their workforce.

IFA and IEDA are pleased to introduce the first of its kind, Iowa Thriving Communities designation, which will provide communities with a chance to be recognized for their efforts.

A limited number of communities will be awarded the new prestigious designation, which comes with lucrative scoring points for the Federal Housing Tax Credit and/or Workforce Housing Tax Credit programs, meaning that developers will be highly incentivized to select an Iowa Thriving Community for a proposed development through the 2024 programs. Iowa Thriving Communities will also serve as statewide community models for welcoming housing development for all Iowans.

Iowa Thriving Community applications are being accepted now through July 17.

STAFF

ADMINISTRATION

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WESTERN IOWA TRANSIT

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